2005 CACRAO
SC Guidance Conferences

SC Commission on Higher Education

September 6-9, 2005

9:30 A.M.

Agenda

- General Eligibility – All Programs
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- SC Need-based Grants
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- Early Graduates
- Legislative Update
- Question and Answer/Wrap-up
- Contact Information

General Eligibility – All Programs

General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Be a South Carolina resident;

- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident (green card);

- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;

- Certify that the he/she has <u>never</u> been convicted of any felonies and has <u>not</u> been convicted of any alcohol and/or drug-related misdemeanors within the past academic year (except Lottery Tuition Assistance); and

General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Verify that he/she does <u>not</u> owe a refund or repayment on any federal or state financial aid and is not in default on any federal student loans.

High School Grades

Students must have their GPA reported on the SC Uniform Grading Scale to be eligible for State scholarships.

SC HOPE Scholarship

SC HOPE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) upon high school graduation

- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation <u>and</u> at the time of college enrollment

- Must <u>not</u> be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance

SC HOPE Scholarship
Awarding Process

- Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive up to $2,650 (including a $150 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance during the **first year only.** Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.

- Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for up to two terms based on initial college enrollment

- Students who receive the SC HOPE Scholarship and earn a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of the first year may receive the LIFE Scholarship for the second year of college

LIFE Scholarship

LIFE Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation <u>and</u> at the time of college enrollment

- Must <u>not</u> be a recipient of the SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance during the academic year

LIFE Scholarship

Initial Eligibility at Four-year Institutions

- Meet two of the following three criteria:

  - Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) upon high school graduation (GPA cannot be rounded and must be reported with at least two decimal places)

  - Score at least 1100 on the SAT I (must use highest Math score combined with highest Critical Reading (formerly the Verbal)); or 24 on the ACT.

  - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class consisting of high school diploma candidates only based on the UGS (no rounding). The graduating class cannot include any students who graduated during the summer

LIFE Scholarship

Award Amount at Four-year Institutions

- Full-time students attending an eligible SC four-year institution may receive up to $5,000 (including a $300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance each academic year

- The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of 8 consecutive semesters (excluding summer school) based on initial college enrollment

LIFE Scholarship

Initial Eligibility at Two-year Institutions

- Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGS upon high school graduation (No rounding & at least two decimal places)

  - Standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived

- Full-time students attending an eligible two-year institution may receive up to cost-of-tuition plus a $300 book allowance

LIFE Scholarship

<u>Continued Eligibility</u>

- For determining continued eligibility, a student must earn:

  - At least a cumulative <u>3.0 "LIFE GPA"</u> based on grades earned at all eligible institutions in-state and out-of-state **(including college grades earned while in high school and out-of-state institutions);**

  - An average of thirty credit hours (or equivalent) per academic year at all institutions attended based on initial college enrollment (students can "bank" hours); and

  - LIFE GPA and credit hour requirement must not include attempted credit hours earned for continuing education courses, non-degree credit courses for an associate degree or higher and remedial/developmental courses.

LIFE Scholarship

<u>Earning Eligibility in College</u>

- A student can earn the LIFE Scholarship at the end of the first year, second year, and/or third year by:

  - Earning at least a cumulative <u>3.0 "LIFE GPA"</u> based on grades earned at all eligible institutions **(including college grades earned while in high school and grades from out-of-state institutions); and**

  - Earning an average of thirty credit hours per academic year (or equivalent) at all institutions attended based on initial college enrollment (30 after first year; 60 after second year; and 90 after third year).

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **For early awards**, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **December 15, 2005**. In order to be eligible to apply for early awards, students must meet one of the following criteria (students <u>cannot</u> use these criteria to meet the final awards criteria):

  - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT) by the **November** test administration of the high school senior year, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year;

    or

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

<u>INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</u>

– Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the **<u>November</u>** test administration of the high school senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the junior year, without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

<u>INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</u>

- **<u>For final awards</u>**, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education by **June 15, 2006**. In order to be eligible to apply for final awards, students must meet one of the following criteria:

  - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT) by the **<u>June</u>** national test administration of the **<u>senior year</u>**; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the **<u>senior year</u>**, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the **<u>senior year</u>**;

    or

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the **June** national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGS at the end of the **senior year,** without regard to class rank.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Final Awards for Pending Students**:
  - Must meet all other criteria (either 3.5 GPA at end of senior year & top 6% of senior class **or** 4.0 GPA at end of senior year)

  - Must be <u>registered</u> for the June test administration (please verify by requesting copy of registration confirmation)
    - SAT Code – 4313
    - ACT Code - 6326

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Final Awards for Pending Students**:

  – Must submit an application with eligible students and counselors should place their names on the Pending Applicants Form

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For early and final awards:
    - SAT score must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Critical Reading score (formerly Verbal score). Students <u>cannot</u> use the Writing subsection score. Students may use either the SAT version prior to March 2005 and/or the new SAT. ACT composite score is based upon one test sitting

    - For early awards, test scores will be accepted through the **November** test administration of the senior year. For final awards, test scores will be accepted through the June national test administration of the senior year

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- For early and final awards:
  - GPAs must be reported with at least two decimal places and <u>cannot</u> be rounded

  - Rank is calculated by multiplying the number in class by six percent. If the resulting number is not a whole number, then round it up to the next whole number of students, without regard to normal rounding rules.   (185 x 6% = 11.1, rounded to the next whole number of 12) This formula should be used for the sophomore, junior and senior years

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Information about the electronic application process will be mailed to principals and counselors in October 2005 for the early awards and in March 2006 for final awards

- Announcements will also be placed on the Guidance Counselors' Listserv

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Counselors will continue to be responsible for notifying all eligible students

- Web site for on-line applications for counselor and student will remain the same (counselor & student must submit their portions on-line and will receive receipts as confirmation)

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Counselors are still required to mail Eligible/Pending Applicants Forms, Signature Forms, official transcripts, test score verification and any Declination Forms in one package by the established deadlines for early and final awards (Commission requests that one counselor be given lead responsibility for coordinating this process)

- Directions for formatting and printing official transcripts for the sophomore, junior and senior years based on the Uniform Grading Scale are now available on the Department of Education's web site at: http://www.myscschools.com/offices/tech/dts/documents/GPAandTranscript05.doc

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

<u>APPLICATION PROCESS</u>

- Document Checklist (to be used for mailing application package to Commission) and Frequently Asked Questions are now available on the counselor's web site

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must enroll the fall term immediately following high school graduation

- May receive up to $6,700 each academic year toward cost of attendance

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

AWARDING PROCESS

- May receive the scholarship for a maximum of eight full-time terms of study toward the first bachelor's or first professional degree at an eligible four-year independent or public institution in South Carolina

- Not be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

RENEWAL CRITERIA

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA for graduation purposes by the end of <u>each</u> academic year (fall, spring and summer terms); and

- Take and earn a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours for graduation purposes by the end of <u>each</u> academic year (exempted credit hours, credit hours earned before high school graduation, and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation <u>cannot</u> be used).

SC Need-based Grant

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process

- Each academic year, must file a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. Please be sure to check with the institution or the Tuition Grants Commission, if attending an independent institution, concerning their deadline.

- Students must be needy based on the results of the FAFSA (consistent with Pell Grant eligibility)

- Students may receive up to $2,500 annually if enrolled full-time and up to $1,250 annually if enrolled part-time for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms (college's financial aid office determines the exact award amount)

SC Need-based Grant

Awarding Process (Continued)

- Students must be enrolled in their first one-year program, first associate's degree, first two-year program leading to a bachelor's degree, first bachelor's degree, or first professional degree

- Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable award to students who are in the custody of the SC Department of Social Services

- The SC Tuition Grants Commission awards the SC Need-based Grant for the independent institutions. It is included as part of the Tuition Grant award

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)

Lottery Tuition Assistance

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must file the FAFSA or FASFA Waiver <u>each</u> academic year (check institutional deadlines)

- Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours each term as a degree-seeking student in a certificate, diploma or associate's degree program

Lottery Tuition Assistance

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Students must <u>not</u> be a recipient of a LIFE, Palmetto Fellows or SC HOPE Scholarship during the academic year (fall, spring, and summer)

- Students <u>cannot</u> receive LTAP for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma or degree constitutes progress in the same academic area

Lottery Tuition Assistance

AWARDING PROCESS

- Must first apply federal grants and the SC Need-based Grant toward the cost of tuition

- For the Fall 2005 term, students may receive up to $78 per credit hour if enrolled part-time and up to $936 if enrolled full-time toward the cost of tuition

- The award amount is determined each term based on the number of eligible students and available funding

Lottery Tuition Assistance

DUALLY-ENROLLED HS STUDENTS

- Effective Fall 2005, CHE has granted another one-year extension (ending spring 2006) to the original moratorium to allow dually enrolled high school students to receive funding through LTAP without their initial eligibility for other State scholarship programs being affected. This will be the final year of the moratorium unless an amendment is made to the current law by the General Assembly.

- Any grades and credit hours earned by current high school students while dually enrolled (whether the course is taken this year or was taken in previous years) will be included in their LIFE GPA.

Early Graduates

Early Graduation Application
(http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/Early_Graduation_Form.pd)

- Students who complete their high school graduation requirements mid-year prior to the official graduation date (usually May/June with their senior class) may be eligible to receive the HOPE/LIFE Scholarships dependent on prior approval by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

- The student must submit an Early Graduation Application, an official high school transcript, SAT/ACT scores (LIFE Scholarship) and an official letter from the high school principal verifying that he/she has met all graduation requirements to the Commission on Higher Education

Early Graduates
(Continued)

- Early graduates cannot use class rank to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship mid-year since the class has not officially graduated. Students may qualify for the HOPE Scholarship with a 3.0 GPA or the LIFE Scholarship with a 3.0 GPA and 1100 SAT/24 ACT score

- Students who do not have a class rank may be awarded the LIFE Scholarship retroactively (after the class graduates) if they met all other eligibility criteria. If the student was originally awarded the HOPE Scholarship, the difference will be awarded.

- When submitting official transcripts for mid-year graduates, please omit the graduation date

Legislative Update

2005 Legislative Update

Act 162 allows for the following:

- South University as an eligible institution to the LIFE Scholarship Program.
- Bob Jones University as an eligible institution for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

2005 Legislative Update (continued)

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

Act 95 exempts certain students who are not eligible for federal aid from the requirement to complete the FAFSA . Instead, these students will be allowed to complete a FAFSA waiver.

Palmetto Fellows, HOPE, and LTAP

Act 48 allows visually-impaired, hearing-impaired, and multi-handicapped students to take their State scholarship to an out-of-state postsecondary institution that specializes in their impairment.

Question and Answer Session/ Wrap-up

Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk - Director**

803-737-2244 or kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov

- **Ms. Sandra Rhyne – LIFE & Need-based Grant Coordinator**

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- **Ms. Sherry Hubbard – PFS Coordinator**

803-737-2262 or shubbard@che.sc.gov

- **Ms. Karen Wham – LTAP & SC HOPE Coordinator**

803-737-4544 or kwham@che.sc.gov

Toll Free: 1-877-349-7183

Website: www.che.sc.gov

Additional Contact Information

- ## Scholarship Brochure
    - http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/scholarship_brochure_2005.pdf

- ## SC Tuition Grants Commission
    - http://www.sctuitiongrants.com/